



India: Gas stations to include pharmacies, says minister

India's government is planning on opening 'Jan Aushadhi' (generic medicines) stores at state-run gas stations to make cheap drugs more accessible to the general public, reports The Times of India.

Dharmendra Pradhan, the country's Union Oil minister, said that they wanted to add Jan Aushadhi stores to gas stations belonging to state-run fuel retailers. With many Indian service stations offer additional services other than fuel, in their eyes it could also work for generic medicines.

"Oil marketing companies are bringing an ecosystem of non-fuel retail business at petrol pumps through tieups. The Jan Aushadhi stores under the department of pharmaceuticals in the chemicals & fertilizers ministry will also be opened at the outlets in the future," said Pradhan.

The first problem they have encountered is the lack of qualified pharmacists to operate so many stores.

Pradhan was speaking after fuel retailers inked an MoU with Energy Efficiency Services Ltd for selling energy-efficient appliances and LED bulbs at petrol stations.